

APPENDIX C

CITY'S DENSITY BONUS ORDINANCE

28.87.400 DENSITY BONUS AND DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

A. INTENT

The intent of this section is to provide incentives for the development of housing affordable to very-low income, low income, senior and other qualifying households. State law mandates the provision of density bonuses to senior, very-low, and low income households under certain circumstances. The City of Santa Barbara has created a separate density bonus program for certain other households. Both the State mandated and City created density bonus programs use terms defined in this section.

B. DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases have the meaning indicated unless the context or usage clearly requires a different meaning:

1. Density. The number of residential units allowed on a parcel based on the lot area requirements specified in the zone and General Plan.
2. Density Bonus. A density increase over the otherwise maximum allowable residential density under the applicable Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Element of the General Plan as of the date of application by the developer to the City.

C. PROJECTS WHICH MEET THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN STATE DENSITY BONUS LAW

1. Qualifying housing developments as defined in Government Code Section 65915.

When a developer of housing agrees or proposes to construct at least:

- a. 20% of the total units of a housing development for low income households; or
- b. 10% of the total units of a housing development for very low income households;
or
- c. 50 percent of the total dwelling units of a housing development for senior citizens;

The applicant must submit the project for review by the Community Development Director or his/her designee to determine whether the project meets the criteria set forth in State density bonus law. If the Director determines that the project meets the criteria of State law, the project may be granted a density bonus and at least one other incentive as required by State law, and processed as required by State law unless otherwise requested by the applicant. The incentives and processing provisions required by State law are described in Government Code Section 65915.

2. Procedure for review of projects submitted under State density bonus law.

A project which meets all the requirements of State law shall be processed according to the usual discretionary review procedure, subject to the following exceptions:

- a. LOT AREA MODIFICATION. Notwithstanding any other section in this Code, when a proposed project complies with all of the requirements of State density bonus law, and the density bonus requested is no more than the density bonus mandated by State law, the Community Development Director or his/her designee shall deem the project's density consistent with the Zoning Ordinance, and exempt from the requirement for a lot area modification as set forth in subsection 28.92.026.A.2.
- b. NOTICE OF DESIGN REVIEW BOARD HEARING. When the Community Development Director determines that a proposed project meets all the requirements of State law and the requirements of the residential zoning category in which the project is proposed, and does not cause any unavoidable, significant, environmental impacts, and requires design review as its only City discretionary approval, the appropriate Design Review Board (Historic Landmarks Commission or Architectural Board of Review) will review the project. Notice of the meeting at which the project is considered by the Design Review Board will be provided in accordance with the requirements for noticing of public hearings in Municipal Code subsection 28.92.023.3.

D. PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT MEET THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN STATE DENSITY BONUS LAW.

1. Qualifying Housing Developments

When a developer proposes a development which does not meet the criteria listed above and requests a density bonus, the Community Development Director or his/her designee will review the project for consistency with the criteria of the City's density bonus program, described in the City of Santa Barbara Affordable Housing Policies and Procedures Manual. If the proposed project is determined to be consistent with the criteria of the City's density bonus program, it will be approved or disapproved under the provisions of that program.

2. Procedures for approval of projects which are consistent with the City density bonus program.

A project which does not meet all the requirements of State law, but does meet the standards of the City Density Bonus program will be processed according to the discretionary review procedures in effect and applicable to the project.
(Ord. 4912, 1995.)